



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908-5767

TDD 401-831-5508



SDMS DocID 583376

20 August 2001

Ms. Patricia Meaney
Director, EPA Office of Remediation/Restoration
EPA Region I
One Congress Street, Suite 1100
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Request for State Lead Status for the Truk-Away Landfill, Warwick, RI,
CERCLA ID# RID987493822

Dear Ms. Meaney:

The State of Rhode Island, Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) hereby requests that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) assign a State Lead status code to the Truk-Away Landfill, located in Warwick, RI, which is currently being addressed under the RIDEM Landfill Closure Program. The property was discovered and listed on CERCLIS on June 1, 1981. Since that time there have been three CERCLA investigations. A Preliminary Assessment was completed in April 1, 1982, a Site Inspection was completed in August 1, 1982, and a Site Inspection Prioritization was completed in December 13, 1993.

The RIDEM Solid Waste Program initiated the Landfill Closure Program (LCP) in early 2001 to address former landfill sites in Rhode Island, which have not been properly closed. The majority of these landfills sites were municipal landfills which were added to the CERCLIS list in the mid- 1980's when it was believed that the potential for industrial waste disposal at these landfills existed. In an effort to properly investigate and close these landfill sites, the RIDEM has devised the Landfill Closure Program, which combines both the requirements of the state Solid Waste Regulations and the Remediation Regulations. There are currently 49 former landfill sites which are listed on CERCLIS that fall under the jurisdiction of this program. Based on the Cooperation of the Responsible Party with the RIDEM LCP, it is believed that this site would not be a National Priority List candidate site. The program intends to continue to work with the potentially responsible parties to complete a thorough investigation of the site and conduct remediation and closure activities as required, with the ultimate issuance of a Letter of Compliance. Upon completion of these activities RIDEM will request that the site be placed on the archived CERCLIS list.

The Truk-Away Landfill (the site) is located off of Industrial Drive in Warwick, Rhode Island. The actual Landfill comprises approximately 36 acres of a on a 52 acre parcel, and is located approximately 3 miles west of Narragansett Bay, 2miles north of Greenwich Bay and is adjacent to the Theodore Francis Green Memorial Airport southeast runway. The property is identified as Plat 342, Lots 2, 3, 5, and 429 in the City of Warwick Land Evidence Records. The property is bordered to the southeast by the old Warwick City Dump (no longer operating), to the south by a residential area, to the west by the former Leeson Corporation, to the north by the airport runway, and to the east by wetlands.

The earliest known use of the property was a sand and gravel operation. W.J. Realty Co. of Providence, Rhode Island owned and leased the landfill property to Truk-Away of Rhode Island, Inc. (previously Sanitas Waste Disposal Co.) from 1969 to 1976-1977 when it was sold to Truk- Away of Rhode Island, Inc. (owned by Charles Wilson). Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) Division of Airports took ownership of the property on October 25, 1977. Recently, RIDOT has transferred the liability of the site to the Rhode Island Department of Administration (RIDOA) with an August 18, 2000 Memorandum of Agreement between the two agencies. The Rhode Island Airport Corporation (RIAC), which is a quasi-public agency, has completed a preliminary investigation of the landfill for possible beneficial reuse.

The property began accepting municipal and industrial wastes in 1970 under the name Warwick Sanitary Landfill, operated by Sanitas Waste Disposal of Rhode Island, a private refuse collection company. By 1976 the company had changed its name to Truk-Away of Rhode Island, Inc., and the landfill became known as the Truk-Away Landfill. Along with its landfill operation, Truk-Away of Rhode Island, Inc was a major hauler of commercial and industrial trash in Warwick.

During a State inspection on June 4, 1982, a former employee told the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) he had been responsible for overseeing the disposal of drummed chemical wastes at the Truk-Away Landfill in the 1970s and that "hundreds of drums" had been disposed of at the landfill. According to the former employee, the types of wastes disposed of at the landfill included: sulfur monochloride, benzyl chloride, xylol, toluene, pyridene, spent solvents, nitrobenzene, chlorobenzene, trichloroethylene (TCE), dyes, pigments, intermediate compounds made from benzene reactions, phenols, hydrogen peroxide, and benzene sulfonyl chloride.

According to a Notification of Hazardous Waste Site form completed by Recycling Industries Inc. of Braintree, Massachusetts, approximately 432 cubic feet and 39,050 gallons of "low hazard material (i.e., paint waste, still bottoms, hydroxide sludge, non-hazardous wastes)" were disposed of at the Truk-Away Landfill from 1977 to 1978 (although the landfill had reportedly ceased operating in 1977). The sources of the wastes were identified as paper/printing, chemical, plating/polishing, utility, and metal fabrication companies.

Investigation activities took place during the Fall of 2000. The results of the "Limited Environmental Site Investigation Report for the Former Truk Away Landfill Site", dated March 2001 revealed soil samples with Arsenic levels in exceedance of RIDEM Industrial/Commercial Direct Exposure Criteria and trace levels of VOC's. Groundwater was also found to be in exceedance of RIDEM GB Groundwater Criteria for Toluene, and ethylbenzene. Groundwater in exceedance of RIDEM GA Groundwater Criteria was also detected for Vinyl Chloride, Methylene Chloride, cis-1,2-Dichloroethene, 1,2-Dichloroethene, 1,1,1-Trichloroethene, Naphthalene, Xylenes (Total), Benzene, Chlorobenzene, and the inorganic constituents Arsenic and Lead. In addition, landfill gas with elevated levels of Methane, Hydrogen Sulfide and VOC's.

Based on the Results of the Spring 2001 Investigation, The Rhode Island Airport Corporation in cooperation with the Rhode Island Department of Administration is prepared to perform additional site investigations and submit the appropriate Remedial Alternatives to bring the site into compliance with State and Federal Regulations.

Given the information provided above, the RIDEM believes that:

1. At this time the property is not an appropriate candidate for NPL listing and no further steps should be taken by EPA to list the property on the NPL unless information currently unknown to the Department is discovered which could change the status of the site, or if the responsible party ceases to cooperate with RIDEM;
2. The current State oversight of this project is sufficient to ensure containment of onsite sources, require necessary remediation, and monitor impacts to human health and the environment;
3. The site status on CERCLIS should indicate the RIDEM as the lead agency at this site.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Cynthia Gianfrancesco at 401-222-4700 X 7126.

Sincerely,



Leo Hellested, P.E., Chief
Office of Waste Management

cc: M. DeStefano, RIDEM
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